



# Montana Crop & Livestock Reporter

survey results summary issued twice monthly by the  
**USDA, NASS, Montana Field Office**

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## **“Happy Holidays from All of Us at Montana's Agricultural Statistics Office”**

May your holiday season be filled with joyfulness and snow! Spring rains in 2005 improved Montana's agricultural production outlook by putting a dent in the state's six-year drought. In fact, 70% of Montana's counties are currently in a no drought designation. Because of the unusually high spring precipitation, pastures and ranges across most of Montana were excellent. Harvested hay acres hit a new record high in 2005, along with hay yield and production. With a normal snow pack this winter, Montana's agricultural production outlook will also improve for 2006.

Montana's 2005 wheat production grew 17 million bushels, due to increases in winter wheat production. Winter wheat production went up 38% from 2004, setting a new record yield of 45 bushels per acre. Spring wheat production dropped 8% from 2004. Durum wheat production was 12% lower than in 2004. Barley production was also down 19% from 2004. In 2005, value-added agricultural opportunities improved with more producers planting oilseeds and pulse crops.

Montanans have a lot to be thankful for, but Montana's people are what is truly remarkable about Montana. Montana's farmers and ranchers continue to be stewards of the land, working tirelessly to provide for future generations. Because of the remarkable people who make a living from the land, Montana's Agricultural Statistics Office is also hopeful about the future of Montana agriculture.

To everyone involved in Montana's agricultural industry, thank you for your continued support. With your help, we can provide sound statistical facts that you can use to chart the future course of **Montana's Number One Industry--Agriculture.**

We sincerely hope that you and your family have a joyous and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Stringer, Director

## 2005 Dry Edible Bean Production

Production for Montana's **dry edible bean** crop was estimated at 309,000 cwt., up 8 percent from the 2004 crop. Planted acreage for 2005 is estimated to be 18,000 acres, a 38 percent increase from last year. Harvested area for 2005 is 15,900 acres, a 25 percent increase from 2004. The yield is forecast at 1,940 pounds per acre, 300 pounds less than last year.

**Pinto bean** production for Montana is estimated at 239,000 cwt, which is 5 percent less than last year. Acres planted, at 12,000, are up 11 percent from 2004. Harvested acres, at 10,000, are 6 percent less than the previous year. The yield is forecast at 2,390 pounds per acre, 10 pounds more than last year.

**All chickpea (garbanzo beans)** production is forecast at 70,000 cwt for 2005, up 112 percent from 2004. Planted acreage was 6,000 acres, up 172 percent from 2004. Harvested area is estimated at 5,900 acres, up 181 percent from 2004. The yield is forecast at 1,190 pounds per acre, 380 pounds below 2004. **Small Chickpea** (smaller than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 15,000 cwt. for

2005. Planted acreage was 1,400 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 1,300 acres. The yield is forecast at 1,150 pounds per acre. **Large Chickpea** (larger than 20/64 in.) production is forecast at 55,000 cwt. for 2005. Planted acreage was 4,600 acres. Harvested area is estimated at 4,600 acres. The yield is forecast at 1,200 pounds per acre.

U.S. **dry edible bean** production is forecast at 27.2 million cwt for 2005, up 4 percent from the October forecast and 53 percent above last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.57 million acres, 3 percent above the last forecast and up 29 percent from 2004. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,731 pounds per acre, an increase of 16 pounds from the October forecast and 272 pounds above a year ago. Production is above a year ago in 16 of the 17 producing States. Most notable production increases from last year are Minnesota up 111 percent, Colorado 91 percent higher, and North Dakota increasing 82 percent. Production is up from a year ago for large lima, baby lima, navy, great northern, pinto, light red kidney, dark red kidney, pink, small red, blackeye, and small and large chickpeas.

Production decreased from last year for small white, cranberry, and black.

Production in North Dakota is forecast at 8.66 million cwt, 82 percent above 2004. Harvested acres increased 6 percent, while the average yield, at 1,520 pounds per acre, is up 520 pounds from last year. Harvest was essentially complete by mid-October, slightly ahead of average and over two weeks ahead of last year.

## Cow-Calf-Feeder Sectors Strong

The cow-calf-yearling sector continues to be the strongest sector of the beef industry. While down from spring 2005 record highs, calf prices remain historically high, about 4 percent above year-earlier levels and almost 20 percent above October-November 2003 levels. Stocker-feeder cattle supplies outside feedlots, although slightly above year-earlier levels, remain cyclically low with strong demand for the tight supplies from both the stocker cattle and cattle feeding sectors. Fall and over-wintering forage conditions appear adequate in most areas for the reduced cattle inventory. (continued on back page.)

## U.S. Livestock and Meat Imports and Exports

	2003	2004	Jan-Sept 2004	Jan-Sept. 2005
<b>Beef and veal imports carcass wt. 1,000 lbs.</b>				
Australia	1,128,589	1,118,439	779,627	690,298
New Zealand	644,607	645,414	577,194	494,899
Canada	740,065	1,062,420	783,642	876,067
Brazil	206,227	219,393	155,040	145,806
Argentina	87,890	116,606	84,080	83,507
Central America	79,118	93,991	64,610	67,910
Uruguay	103,372	402,898	282,697	423,836
Mexico	15,883	19,495	13,990	19,011
Other	161	576	499	678
Total	3,005,910	3,679,232	2,741,379	2,802,012
<b>Beef and veal Exports</b>				
Japan	918,014	11,609	8,078	11,650
Canada	226,681	56,457	30,723	63,100
Mexico	586,390	333,454	212,619	311,155
South Korea	586,617	648	459	841
Caribbean	21,691	25,002	18,460	17,938
Other	178,856	33,146	21,298	63,702
Total	2,518,249	460,314	291,637	468,386
<b>Cattle imports head</b>				
Mexico	1,239,531	1,370,476	903,240	814,244
Canada	512,353	135	135	212,174
Over 700 lbs.	439,016	--	--	189,907
Immediate slaughter	354,044	--	--	107,645
440-700 lbs.	12,520	--	--	20,509
Total	1,751,896	1,370,611	903,375	1,026,418
<b>Cattle exports</b>				
Mexico	22,437	1,365	675	223
Canada	68,394	14,246	9,269	16,381
Total	98,818	15,721	10,013	17,551

## U.S. Livestock and Meat Imports and Exports

	2003	2004	Jan-Sept. 2004	Jan-Sept 2005
<b>Lamb imports carcass wt. 1,000 lbs.</b>				
Australia	75,320	81,256	59,980	70,583
New Zealand	59,159	60,749	51,275	36,262
Total	134,830	142,748	111,753	107,248
<b>Mutton imports</b>				
Total	32,912	38,103	30,682	24,409
<b>Lamb and mutton exports</b>				
Total	6,596	8,372	5,509	6,734
<b>Pork imports</b>				
Canada	971,328	885,752	669,373	605,251
Denmark	147,110	138,564	108,792	79,025
Other	66,763	75,149	51,841	62,492
Total	1,185,202	1,099,464	830,006	746,767
<b>Pork exports</b>				
Japan	793,339	920,851	681,359	801,935
Canada	191,505	234,366	167,423	222,408
Mexico	349,983	532,642	377,541	381,205
Russia	16,386	67,069	31,841	66,889
South Korea	79,642	71,177	45,844	132,594
Hong Kong	44,620	32,179	25,611	12,180
China (Mainland)	44,658	84,379	56,297	88,871
China (Taiwan)	70,129	98,544	77,283	47,407
Other	126,436	139,327	92,491	204,382
Total	1,716,698	2,180,534	1,555,689	1,957,870
<b>Hog imports head</b>				
Canada	7,438,063	8,504,972	6,428,690	6,001,678
Under 110 lbs	4,971,044	5,623,494	4,337,292	4,014,980
Under 15 lbs	--	3,087,670	2,383,594	2,055,710
Total	7,438,254	8,505,518	6,429,236	6,002,012
<b>Hog Exports</b>				
Total	169,881	174,010	140,198	130,579

SOURCE: Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Situation and Outlook, ERS, November 17, 2005.

## October 2005 Ag Prices Received

October full month crop prices were mixed compared with October 2004 and higher than September 2005. The average price for Montana's winter wheat, at \$3.39 per bushel, was the same as a year ago but up \$0.13 from September 2005; spring wheat moved down \$0.12 from last year but up \$0.15 from last month to \$3.65 per bushel; durum wheat prices were \$0.45 below October 2004, but \$0.04 higher than September 2005 to \$3.58 per bushel. Feed barley prices were \$0.07 above the previous year and \$0.09 above the previous month to \$1.64, malt barley prices increased \$0.11 from a year ago, and were \$0.04 above September 2005 to \$3.10 per bushel.

The mid-November price for alfalfa hay was \$3.00 below October 2005 at \$72.00 per ton, but all other hay increased \$7.00 from October to \$74.00 per ton. The mid-November grain prices were mostly higher than the previous month with the winter wheat price at \$3.38 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.95; durum wheat was \$3.43; all barley was \$2.74;

feed barley was \$1.52; and malt barley was \$3.15 per bushel.

Livestock prices for the full month of October were mostly lower compared with September 2005. Steer and heifer prices increased \$12.00 to a new record high price of \$119.00 per cwt, but cows dropped \$4.00 to \$47.70 per cwt. The price for calves decreased \$6.00 to \$138.00 per cwt. Sheep prices dropped \$2.30 to \$42.60 per cwt, and lamb prices dropped \$5.00 to \$119.00 per cwt. The all milk price, at \$15.40 per cwt, was down \$0.40 from September. Steer and heifer prices for mid-November were \$120.00 per cwt; cows were \$49.10 per cwt; calves were \$143.00 per cwt; and milk prices were \$15.50 per cwt.

Nationally, October prices and changes from October 2004 and September 2005 were as follows: winter wheat was \$3.33, down \$0.01 from last year, but up \$0.05 from September; spring wheat was \$3.62, up \$0.12 from last year and last month; durum wheat was \$3.40, down \$0.47 from last year and unchanged from last month; the all barley price was

\$2.41, up \$0.12 from last year and \$0.05 from September; and steer and heifer prices were \$96.60, up \$5.50 from last year and up \$4.30 from September.

The U.S. mid-November winter wheat price was \$3.25 per bushel; spring wheat was \$3.64 per bushel; durum wheat was \$3.23 per bushel; all wheat was \$3.36 per bushel, malt barley was \$2.86 per bushel; feed barley was \$1.88 per bushel; and all barley was \$2.49 per bushel. Steer and heifer prices were \$97.40 per cwt; cow prices were \$45.80 per cwt, calves were \$132.00 per cwt; all hog prices were \$44.70 per cwt; and all egg price was \$0.653 per dozen.

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in November, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, increased 2 points (1.8 percent) from October.

The Food Commodities Index, at 119, increased 3 points (2.6 percent) from last month but decreased 3 points (2.5 percent) from November 2004.

## United States Index Summary

INDEX (1990-92=100)	October 2004	November 2004	October 2005	November 2005
Prices Received	114	115	111	113
Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes, & Farm Wage Rates 1/	136	135	144	143
Ratio 2/	84	85	77	79

1/ Prices paid indexes (1990-92=100) published monthly. 2/ Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid.

## Montana Average Farm Prices Received

Commodity	UNIT	Monthly Average				Change From Previous		Mid-Month Average	
		Montana			U.S.	Month	Year	Montana	U.S.
		Oct. 2004	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2005	Oct. 2005	Sept. 2005	Oct. 2004	Nov. 15, 2005	Nov. 15, 2005
		Dollars							
Winter Wheat	Bu.	3.39	3.26	3.39	3.33	+0.13	nc	3.38	3.25
Durum Wheat	Bu.	4.03	3.54	3.58	3.40	+0.04	-0.45	3.43	3.23
Spring Wheat	Bu.	3.77	3.50	3.65	3.62	+0.15	-0.12	3.95	3.64
All Wheat	Bu.	3.67	3.39	3.51	3.43	+0.12	-0.16	3.62	3.36
Barley, All	Bu.	2.62	2.68	2.74	2.41	+0.06	+0.12	2.74	2.49
Feed Barley	Bu.	1.57	1.55	1.64	1.81	+0.09	+0.07	1.52	1.88
Malt Barley	Bu.	2.99	3.06	3.10	2.72	+0.04	+0.11	1.15	2.86
Oats	Bu.	n/a	n/a	1.80	1.59	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.46
Alfalfa Hay	Ton	78.00	85.00	75.00	106.00	-10.00	-3.00	72.00	97.50
All Other Hay	Ton	70.00	70.00	67.00	76.50	-3.00	-3.00	74.00	76.30
All Hay Baled	Ton	75.00	82.00	74.00	97.70	-8.00	-1.00	72.00	91.70
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	115.00	107.00	119.00	96.60	+12.00	+4.00	120.00	97.40
Cows	Cwt	51.20	51.70	47.70	46.60	-4.00	-3.50	49.10	45.80
Beef Cattle 1/	Cwt	104.00	91.00	105.00	91.10	+14.00	+1.00	109.00	91.60
Calves	Cwt	127.00	144.00	138.00	134.00	-6.00	+11.00	143.00	132.00
Sheep 2/	Cwt	40.70	44.90	42.60	43.70	-2.30	+1.90	n/a	n/a
Lambs 2/	Cwt	109.00	124.00	119.00	108.00	-5.00	+10.00	n/a	n/a
All Milk	Cwt	14.90	15.80	15.40	15.50	-0.40	+0.50	15.50	15.10

1/ Composite of steers, heifers, and cows. 2/ Mid-month prices for sheep and lambs discontinued. n/a-not available nc-no change

## ERS Economist Says Cow-Calf Feeder Sectors Strong

(continued from page two)

Wheat pasture conditions in mid-November in the High Plains winter grazing area appear near to somewhat above the favorable conditions of last year, although conditions in Texas are less favorable. Unfortunately, the grazing potential appears poor. The percentage of the wheat crop emerged in Kansas and Oklahoma was well above a year earlier and the 5-year average in mid-November, although conditions in Texas were below average. The Kansas crop was rated 94 percent fair or better, while the Oklahoma crop was rated 88 percent. The Texas crop

was only rated 70 percent fair or better. Unfortunately, the overall grazing prospects on the winter wheat crop is marginal at best with dry conditions over the past 6 weeks sharply reducing crop growth and grazing prospects. Stocker/feeder cattle prices continue strong as feed prices remain very favorable. Feeder cattle prices for Oklahoma City, 750- to 800-pound, medium number 1 and 2 steers, are about \$2 to \$4 per cwt higher than a year earlier, while 500 to 550 pound calves are averaging \$8 to \$10 per cwt higher.

Cattle slaughter is running slightly behind year-earlier levels, just under 2 percent below 2004, but beef production is

only fractionally behind year-earlier levels. Average weights for October 2005 are about 8 pounds higher than October 2004, in part due to the lower proportion of heifers in the slaughter mix. Both steer and heifer weights are averaging well above year-earlier levels. Cow slaughter has begun to rise seasonally, but remains well below year-earlier levels, particularly for beef cow slaughter. Although U.S. imports of slaughter cattle from Canada continue to increase, a slower pace of fed cattle imports and a somewhat slower marketing pace from U.S. feedlots have resulted in a pullback in fourth-quarter beef production estimates, even as slaughter weights remain near record levels.

## U.S. Meats Supply and Use, 2004 and Projected 2005 and 2006

Meat Supply and Use, 2004 and Projected 2005 and 2006								
Item	Beginning Stocks	Production 1/	Imports	Total Supply	Exports	Ending Stocks	Consumption	
							Total	Per capita 2/, 3/
Million pounds 4/								
<b>BEEF</b>								
2004	518	24,650	3,679	28,847	460	637	27,750	66.1
2005 Proj.	Oct: 637	24,931	3,816	29,384	639	575	28,170	66.4
	Nov: 637	24,787	3,746	29,170	629	610	27,931	65.9
2006 Proj.	Oct: 575	26,077	3,780	30,432	640	575	29,217	68.2
	Nov: 610	25,852	3,720	30,182	640	575	28,967	67.7
<b>PORK</b>								
2004	532	20,529	1,099	22,160	2,181	543	19,437	51.3
2005 Proj.	Oct: 543	20,753	985	22,281	2,729	545	19,007	49.7
	Nov: 543	20,727	985	22,255	2,709	545	19,001	49.7
2006 Proj.	Oct: 545	21,145	960	22,650	2,765	545	19,340	50.1
	Nov: 545	21,145	960	22,650	2,785	545	19,320	50.0
<b>BROILERS</b>								
2004	608	33,699	27	34,334	4,784	713	28,837	84.3
2005 Proj.	Oct: 713	34,835	37	35,585	5,351	650	29,583	85.6
	Nov: 713	34,816	37	35,566	5,431	675	29,460	85.2
2006 Proj.	Oct: 650	35,936	36	36,622	5,475	675	30,472	87.3
	Nov: 675	35,936	36	36,647	5,595	695	30,357	87.0
<b>TURKEYS</b>								
2004	354	5,383	5	5,741	442	288	5,010	17.0
2005 Proj.	Oct: 288	5,407	8	5,703	583	250	4,870	16.4
	Nov: 288	5,426	8	5,723	578	250	4,895	16.5
2006 Proj.	Oct: 250	5,462	4	5,716	590	300	4,826	16.1
	Nov: 250	5,482	4	5,736	600	300	4,836	16.1

1/ Total including farm production for red meats and, for poultry, federally inspected plus non-federally inspected, less condemnations. 2/ Pounds, retail-weight basis. 3/ Population source: Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis. 4/ Carcass weight for red meats and certified ready-to-cook weight for poultry.

Source: World Ag Supply and Demand Estimates, WAOB, November 10, 2005.

## COMING IN NEXT REPORTER

Potato Stocks	Hog & Pig Inventory
Milk Production	
Cattle on Feed	
Red Meat Production	
Egg Production	

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